



Agenda Item Number: 2005-5-7B

BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: May 10, 2005

Department: Public Works Division **Staff Contact:** Tim West, Deputy County Manager for PW
Kim McKibben, Solid Waste Director

TITLE: Rate Adjustment for East Mountain Area Transfer Station

ACTION: Motion to approve Administrative Resolution AR -2005 adjusting fees for Solid Waste Disposal.

SUMMARY:

The East Mountain Area Transfer Station is located three miles east of the Village of Tijeras and has been in operation since 1985. The facility has six employees, is open 10 hours a day, seven days a week, and serves approximately 2000 customers per month. The transfer station was renovated last year with grant funds from the New Mexico Environment Department and new equipment, to include a conveyer and two trucks with trailers, were purchased with 2004 Legislative appropriations and Environmental Services Gross Receipts Tax (ESGRT). The fee schedule increase is required to offset operational expenses. The Solid Waste Department is established as a County Enterprise Fund to be self sufficient in regards to revenue and expenditures.

Since 1997 the Transfer Station fee has been \$4.00 for the first cubic yard and \$1.00 for each additional yard for residential solid waste disposal. With approximately 667 customers bringing extra yards per month, this fee structure has not fully sustained the facility. Station operations have been subsidized by between \$140,000 and \$190,000 per annum by ESGRT. Staff believes that this fee structure also encourages residents to accumulate larger amounts of solid waste before hauling it for disposal resulting in potential health and public safety issues. Domestic animals and wildlife, to include bears, are attracted to residential waste. With the attraction come scattering, littering, nesting, and the potential for disease such as the plague and hanta virus.

The County currently pays the Torrence County Landfill \$5.00 per yard for disposal of solid waste collected by the Transfer Station. Because the cost to process and haul solid waste to the landfill is the same per yard, staff recommends that the disposal fee be adjusted to \$4.00 for each yard of residential solid waste brought to the transfer station. Recycling is available at the transfer station to help customers reduce their solid waste disposal. The fee increase would go into effect June 1, 2005. On November 9, 2004 the Board approved a rate increase for the remainder of the County for curbside pickup.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. **AR -2005**
2. Schedule of fees
3. Comparison of area rates
4. ESGRT Subsidy Report

FISCAL IMPACT

Transfer Station Fees	BC10-431440-16SF	\$60,000
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STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY**COUNTY MANAGER**

Although operational efficiencies have been optimized with recent renovation to the Transfer Station, operational costs greatly exceed income. Approval of the fee increase will significantly reduce the ESGRT subsidy. Support from ESGRT will continue to be utilized to facilitate more community cleanups, household hazardous waste/green waste events (\$45,000 annually). I recommend Board approval. TL 5/4/05

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Tipping fees for solid waste collected at the Transfer Station and disposed of at the Torrance County Landfill are \$5 per cubic yard. The Transfer Station collects \$4 per cubic yard from the resident for the first cubic yard received resulting in an operational expense of \$1 to be subsidized from other funding sources.

Additional cubic yards subsequent to the first cubic yard that are disposed of cost the resident only \$1 per cubic yard resulting in a tipping fee cost of \$5 per cubic yard requiring a subsidy of \$4 per cubic yard for the collection revenue and disposal expense of solid waste to break even. The requested adjustment does not result in revenues fully meeting expenses but lessens the subsidy required from the sources to fund the cost of solid waste disposal for the East Mountain Transfer Station. I recommend approval of the adjustment. TW 4/30/05

LEGAL

This is the appropriate procedure to modify the fees for the East Mountain Transfer Station. Resolution approved as to form. TDC 4/1/05

FINANCE

Budget	There is no fiscal impact with the approval of this Administrative Resolution to adjust the fees for Solid Waste Disposal. The increase of revenue as a result of this increase was included with the FY05 budget. Priscilla L. Gutierrez, Budget Analyst Sr., 4/28/05.
Purchasing	No comment required. R. Suazo, Purchasing Administrator 4/27/05
Contracts	No comment required. R. Suazo, Purchasing Administrator 4/27/05
Risk Management	No comment required. David Baca, Risk Management 4/27/05